

REMARKS

Applicant submits herewith the following response to the Office Communication dated May 4, 2004.

The Examiner objected to claims 5 – 46, 52 – 66, 72 – 76, and 79. Claims 7 – 15, 17 – 22, 25 – 28, 31, 49, 52 – 56, 65 – 66, 70, 72 – 73, 76, and 79 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct for dependencies. Applicant hereby requests that these claims be considered for restriction as the Examiner indicated.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that consideration and examination of the IV groups specified in the Restriction should not impose an undue burden.

Additionally, significant expense and time would be saved if the IV groups (i.e., all pending claims) were searched and examined at this time.

Nonetheless, to provide a complete response, Applicant elects with traverse Group I, claims 1, 2, 3, and 6 drawn to a drug discovery process for the identification of a small organic compound, as that Group is defined in the Office Communication.

The Examiner also requested that the Applicant elect a species claim. Applicant elects the species of proteins of claims 7- 46. As stated above, claims 7 – 15, 17 – 22, 25 – 28, and 31 have been amended as requested by the Examiner to correct informalities and Applicant requests the Examiner to consider these claims for restriction.

The election of Group I is being made solely to comply with the Restriction Requirement and the right to file divisional applications on non-elected subject matter is reserved.

Applicants further respectfully request that rejoinder of the IV groups be considered by the Examiner following the search.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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